

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1179

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Gary and Libbie Suter on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 1962, Gary Thomas Suter and Libbie Jane Dawson were joined in holy matrimony at Citadel Square Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and since that fateful day this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Gary Suter is a native Nashvillian, but Libbie Dawson was born in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains at her parent's home in Greene County; she didn't realize until she applied for a marriage license that the attending physician had spelled her name incorrectly on her birth certificate when he made a house call three days after her birth; and

WHEREAS, Gary and Libbie first met one summer while she was working as a counselor at the Easter Seal Camp on Old Hickory Lake; when Libbie moved to Nashville in 1960, their romance officially began, and when finances were tight, they entertained each other musically, he playing guitar, she the ukulele; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Tennessee Technological University, Gary proudly joined the U.S. Navy; he attended Officer's Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island and served his country a total of eight years in the Navy; and

WHEREAS, the Suters honeymooned on a train from Nashville to Long Beach, California, and five weeks later, Gary had shipped out for a six-month tour of duty in the West Pacific aboard a mine sweeper; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, the Suters were transferred to Charleston, South Carolina, and their son, Brian, was born there that same year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Suter next served in Norfolk, Virginia aboard the USS Guadalcanal; during his tour of duty, the ship retrieved and escorted the astronauts of Apollo IX; and

WHEREAS, after their second son, Edward, was born in 1968, the Suters relocated to Hartford, Connecticut where Mr. Suter served as the Commander of the U.S. Naval and Marine Reserve Center; and

WHEREAS, after he completed his patriotic military service, the Suters returned home to Greenbrier, Tennessee and joined Ebenezer Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the are still active and faithful members of the church; Gary has served as a Sunday School teacher, Deacon, audio/video director and worked with boys as a Royal Ambassador leader; Libbie has also served as a Sunday School teacher and worked with girls as an Acteens leader; and

WHEREAS, the Suters are also longtime members of the Green Ridge Civitan Club in Greenbrier; Mr. Suter recently received the club's Citizen of the Year award in recognition of his outstanding community service; and

WHEREAS, in all their endeavors, Mr. and Mrs. Suter have positively influenced the lives of their family, friends, and the young people in their community and their church; and

WHEREAS, Gary Suter is a thirty-year veteran of the Greenbrier Fire Department and currently serves as Chief; in addition to being a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical first responder, he holds many specialty certifications and has completed numerous training courses; and

WHEREAS, their many personal and civic accomplishments aside, Mr. and Mrs. Suter are most thankful for the love, companionship, and support they share with their sons, Brian and Edward, their grandchildren, Joshua, Carey, Cristin, Zachary, and Lucas, and their great grandchild, McKennah; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Suters' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Gary and Libbie Suter on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.